Revival of Utkal Alumina International Ltd., Kashipur

2226. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bauxite Mining and Alumina plant project of Utkal Alumina International Ltd., Kashipur in Orissa is proposed to be revived;

(b) if so, the name of the Company who will manage and run the Plant; and

(c) whether there is local opposition to its revival, if so, the nature of their apprehensions and action taken to dispel them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The State Government of Orissa has informed that the Bauxite Mining and Alumina plant project of M/s. Utkal Alumina International Ltd. (UAIL), Kashipur in Orissa is an ongoing project. Indian Aluminium Company Ltd. (INDAL) who is one of the promoters of UAIL will manage and run the plant after the formalities of acquiring 55% majority stake in UAIL are completed.

(c) There was local opposition to the project and UAIL has decided to put a renewed thrust on effective communication to convince the local villagers about their plans to facilitate sustainable development and to achieve overall socio-economic development in the region by organising social awareness programmes.

Amendments to Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974

2227. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 to impose cess on Coal to improve safety in mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has estimated expenditure required to improve safety in mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures to be taken to raise funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974 at present.

Excise duty is imposed as per Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 for utilisation of the fund so collected for various works including conservation and safety in coal mines.

(c) and (d) Estimated expenditure for the safety in Coal Mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) for the year 2002-03 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Coal Cos.	Budget for the year 2002-03	
	Capital	Revenue
CIL	76.32	415.57
SCCL	1.50	190.00

(e) The expenditure for safety in mines is met from the internal resource of the company. However, expenditure on stowing and protective works qualify for receiving subsidy from the fund collected in the form of excise duty.

Mining of Diamonds

†2228. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement to hand over mining of diamonds at Devbhog in Chhattisgarh to De-Beers has been reached; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken so far with regard to mining and testing of diamonds and the plans formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under Section 10(3)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.